

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, M.S. 19-31
Sacramento, CA 95814



April 15, 1987

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-28-87

TO: All Public and Private Adoption Agencies
All Department of Social Services District Offices
All County Welfare Departments

SUBJECT: California's Waiting Children Program (This letter
supersedes ACIN NO. I-70-84)

The Department of Social Services and KQVR, Channel 13, Sacramento, have reached an agreement to produce the California's Waiting Children Program. This program will be the successor to the "Waiting Child" Program and host Bob Burton will continue to feature special needs children available for adoption during this weekly program. Because of your cooperation and contributions, the program has enjoyed a remarkable success rate, placing approximately 80 percent of all participating children in adoptive homes.

The Department is also exploring with KQVR the possibility of syndicating the feature to other local television stations throughout the State. This will greatly enhance the recruitment of potential adoptive homes for all special needs children whether spotlighted or not. Should you wish your area to be covered by the potential syndicated network, please let us know soon.

Attached you will find a referral for the California's Waiting Children Program and Criteria for Selection. Please review the Criteria for Selection before completing the referral form and complete one form for each child. The information you will provide will help us to present each child in a positive manner so please use descriptive terms whenever possible and provide as much detail as you are able.

The inclusion of a photograph of the child or sibling group would be helpful. Please add any miscellaneous information, i.e., geographic limitation on placements, special conditions, medical information, etc., on the back of the form.

Since host Bob Burton, the KOVR-Channel 13 film crew and the departmental representative for California's Waiting Children are able to travel for filming, children throughout the State will have the opportunity to be featured on this highly successful program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Ms. Joan Hirose at (916) 324-9338 or ATSS 454-9338.

Thank you for your help.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Loren D. Suter".

LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

Attachments

cc: CWDA

CALIFORNIA'S WAITING CHILDREN REFERRAL QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE RECEIVED:
FILE NUMBER:
FOR DSS USE ONLY

REFERRING AGENCY:	CONTACT PERSON:	TELEPHONE NUMBER: ()
1. CHILD'S NAME:	2. DATE OF BIRTH:	3. RACE/ETHNICITY:
4. SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	5. LEGAL STATUS:	6. GRADE IN SCHOOL:
7. <input type="checkbox"/> Single Child <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling Group of _____ (No.) <input type="checkbox"/> Placed With Sib Group Required		

8. Is the child a court dependent? If "YES", will court approval be obtained? Please submit a copy of approval if it is now available.

9. Length of time in foster care, including number of foster homes, time in present home, success of adjustment.

10. Briefly summarize any previous placements.

11. Please provide any relevant information on natural parents (i.e., nationality, height, weight, coloring, education, child's relationship to them and/or any significant relatives). Are the natural parents or any other significant relatives in the area? Please specify the future relationship between the relatives and the child.

12. Please provide a description of the child's personality and temperament, including both strengths and weaknesses. Please note if the child is in therapy and if the need will continue in a new placement. What activities does the child consider fun?

13. Describe the type of home and family this child needs and wants including ethnicity of family preferred.

☐ Single parent OK? ☐ Male ☐ Female

14. Please suggest any activities or locations that might enhance the television presentation of this child. Are there any particular locations or activities that would be inappropriate for this child?

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Child must

- be freed from all parents and ready for placement for adoption or have parental and court approval to be featured on television
- not be the object of any type of action (legal or otherwise), by a parent who is trying to regain custody of the child
- be a hard-to-place/special needs child
- be willing to consent to participate in the program, if at an age at which such consent would be appropriate. If a dependent of the court, the court should be willing to consent to the child's participation in the program
- be able to accept the possibility that a home might not be found as a result of the television presentation
- not be in a foster-adopt home

IF THE CHILD IS A COURT DEPENDENT, JUVENILE COURT APPROVAL FOR FILMING IS REQUIRED. THIS APPROVAL MUST BE WRITTEN.

Child should

- exemplify or be typical of a larger group of children under the agency's care
- be a child who probably would not be placed for adoption without media exposure
- be in a situation in which foster parents and social worker are supportive of participation in the program